

passing along said tank bottom over said perforate section to an exit point at the end of said tank opposite said rear wall;

guide means guiding said continuous loop permanent filter media belt out of said tank at a side opposite said rear wall, beneath said tank bottom, up the outside of said rear wall and back into said tank to exert in an endless recirculated path;

said continuous loop permanent filter medial belt freely movable along said recirculation path;

a pair of continuous chain conveyor loops disposed within said tank, each of said chain conveyor loops including a segment extending over a respective side edge of said filter media belt along said bottom of said tank to said exit;

guide means directing said chain conveyor loops from said exit point back over the upper region of said tank to said rear wall and back into said tank, converging with said permanent filter media belt at said rear wall, said permanent media belt and said chain conveyor loops thereby taking divergent routes after exiting said tank;

index drive means for periodically advancing said chain conveyor loops incrementally from said rear wall;

said chain conveyor loops drivingly engaging segments of said permanent filter media belt by frictional contact to advance said segments with said chain conveyor segments during indexing thereof causing said permanent filter media belt to move along said endless recirculation path.

Please rewrite claim 3 twice amended as follows:

3. (Three times amended) A filter apparatus for filtering solids from a liquid comprising:

a tank constructed and arranged to receive liquid to be filtered, said tank including a bottom and a rear endwall;

a perforate section formed in said tank bottom, a collection chamber disposed beneath said perforate section, and means for drawing liquid through said perforate section into said collection chamber;

a continuous loops of a woven fabric porous permanent filter media belt, including a segment extending down said rear wall and passing along said tank bottom over said perforate section to an exit point at the end of said tank opposite said rear wall;

guide means guiding said continuous loop permanent filter media belt out of said tank at a side opposite said rear wall, beneath said tank bottom, up the outside of said rear and back into said tank to extend in an endless recirculation path;

said continuous loop permanent filter media belt freely movable along said recirculation path;

a pair of continuous chain conveyor loops disposed within said tank, each of said chain conveyor loops including a segment extending over a respective side edge of said filter media belt along said bottom of said tank to said exit;

guide means directing said chain conveyor loops from said exit point back over the upper region of said tank to said rear wall and back into said tank, converging with said permanent filter media belt at said rear wall, said permanent media belt and said chain

conveyor loops thereby taking divergent routes after exiting said tank;

index drive means for periodically advancing said chain conveyor loops incrementally from said rear wall;

said chain conveyor loops drivingly engaging segments of said permanent filter media belt segments by frictional contact to advance said segments with said chain conveyor segments during indexing thereof causing said permanent filter media belt to move along said endless recirculation path;

a disposable porous media belt entering between said chain conveyor loops and said permanent filter media belt as said chain conveyor loops and said permanent filter media belt converge together at said rear wall, said disposable media belt extending along said tank bottom and out said exit end of said tank, said chain conveyor loop segment lying atop side edges of said disposable media belt to indirectly frictionally engage said side edges of said permanent filter media belt segments to cause incremental advance of each.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 stand as rejected.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bratten in view of Estabrook and Anderson.

The examiner takes the position that it would be obvious to incorporate the conveyor 25 as disclosed in Estabrook into the filter apparatus of Bratten to better support the filter belt and to route the additional conveyor beneath the tank as described in